

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OIC-02 /076 W  
-----072954 111859Z /45

O 111829Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION USNATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1466  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY

S E C R E T USNATO 04711

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILL, AWACS  
SUBJECT: NATO AWACS

REF: A) STATE 119859 DTG 110030ZMAY78; B) BONN 6941  
DTG 141705ZAPR78; C) USNATO 4698 DTG 111210ZMAY78

1. THE PROPOSED LETTER TO MINISTER APEL (REF A)  
IS EXCELLENT AND SETS THE PROPER TONE FOR DPC  
MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS OF NATO AWACS. HOWEVER,  
WE RAISE BELOW SEVERAL POINTS WASHINGTON MAY WISH  
TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IN FINAL DRAFTING. IN  
ADDITION, WE STRONGLY ENDORSE NATO AWACS AS A  
SUBJECT FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MOD APEL  
BEFORE THE MEETING (REF C).

2. RE PARAGRAPH 4, THE LETTER SPEAKS OF "BOLD  
NEW ENDEAVORS FOR THE FUTURE". WE BELIEVE MORE  
APPROPRIATE WORDING MAY BE "MAJOR STEPS TO  
STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE ALLIANCE DEFENSIVE  
CAPABILITY". THE PRESENT WORDING MAY TOUCH  
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UNNECESSARILY ON GERMAN SENSITIVITIES, SINCE  
THEY HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THEY ARE ALREADY MAKING  
AN EXTENSIVE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES.

3. REGARDING GEPARD (PARA 6) WE UNDERSTAND THAT  
SECRETARY BROWN TOLD MOD APEL ON APR 13 THAT US  
WOULD NOT BUY OR LEASE GEPARD (REF B), AND THAT

OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE LEASING VERY UNLIKELY UNDER ANY FEASIBLE ARRANGEMENT. THE PROPOSED LETTER SEEMS TO REOPEN THAT ISSUE BY OFFERING TO RECONSIDER GEPARD. WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSED WORDING COULD CREATE WHAT MIGHT PROVE TO BE FALSE FRG HOPE, UNLESS OF COURSE, LEASE TERMS AND TIMING PROVE ACCEPTABLE, AND THE GEPARD IS OPERATIONALLY SUIT-ABLE.

4. RE PARAGRAPH 7, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO MENTION THE PROPOSED US/FRG MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) CONCERNING COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PROCUREMENT AND PRODUCTION OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. WHEN APPROVED, THIS MOU COULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD IMPROVING THE TWO-WAY STREET, BY IMPROVING GERMAN ACCESS TO THE US DEFENSE MARKET.

5. AS REPORTED REF C MINISTER APEL HAS REQUESTED A BILATERAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY BROWN. WE STRONGLY ENDORSE SUCH A MEETING; WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE OUTCOME OF THE DPC MINISTERIAL THAT SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER APEL REACH A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON AWACS AS WELL AS THE LTDP BEFORE WE HAVE PROCEEDED TOO FAR INTO THE MEETING. BENNETT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, ALLIANCE, WARNING SYSTEMS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978USNATO04711  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 119859, 78 BONN 6941  
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**TAGS:** OCON, MILI, US, NATO  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014